

GRAFFITI BUSTERS

Helping keep Sturgis Neighborhoods Graffiti-Free

Graffiti defined:

City of Sturgis Ordinance Sec. 34-101

The term "graffiti" as used in this article, means messages, words, numbers, symbols, any type of picture, or other markings painted, inscribed, written, scraped or otherwise affixed without the express consent of the owner.

The Problem:

Graffiti is costly, destructive and a blight to area neighborhoods. It sends a message that the community is not concerned about the appearance of its neighborhoods. In some cases it also promotes gang activity. Graffiti is a crime and is expressly declared by City Ordinance to be a public nuisance.

Enforcement:

The Sturgis Ordinances requires that all sidewalks, buildings, fences, etc. be graffiti free. You can help to maintain a clean responsible image by reporting graffiti in order to have it quickly removed or reporting it immediately if you see someone writing graffiti. Prompt removal reduces the chance of graffiti reappearing and helps maintain a clean and safe environment.

Our goal in dealing with graffiti is:

- To removed graffiti within 48 hours of receiving a report from any city resident.
- To support a zero tolerance approach to graffiti in our neighborhoods.

Filing a report:

If you have been a victim of graffiti contact Central Dispatch at 467-4195 to report the crime. A police officer or a code enforcement officer will respond to make a report, take a photo and may request you to sign a waiver allowing city workers to remove the graffiti for FREE in many cases, as soon as possible, if the incident is within the city. If you have information on who is responsible we will seek charges whenever possible and request restitution for this crime.

Graffiti FAQ's:

- Q. Does the City require permission to remove graffiti from private property?
- A. Removal is the responsibility of the property owner. The owner may request the assistance of city workers to help remove the graffiti. The owner is given 3 days to remove the graffiti. Otherwise city workers are authorized by Ordinance to enter onto the property for the purposes of the removal or elimination of the graffiti.

Q. If I am the parent of a minor child who is responsible for applying graffiti without my knowledge am I responsible?

A. Yes, a parent or guardian of a minor unemancipated minor will be held responsible for associated costs for removal or damages caused by the graffiti pursuant to section 2913 of Public Act.# 235 of 1961 (MCL 600.2913)

Q. How much does it cost if I give permission to remove the graffiti?

A. There is not cost for the owner for this service.